Algebra Activity 4b - Slope and Equations of Lines

Let L be the line that contains the point (-4, -2) and has a slope of $m = \frac{1}{3}$



- 1. Find three other points on the line. Describe how you found them.
- 2. There is a point on the line L, with a y-coordinate of 4, find the x-coordinate.
 - There is a point on the line L, with a y-coordinate of 3, find the x-coordinate.
 - There is a point on the line L, with a y-coordinate of 2, find the x-coordinate.

Describe the process to find the x-coordinate, if you are given the y-coordinate.

- 3. There is a point on the line L, with an x-coordinate of 2, find the y-coordinate.
 - There is a point on the line L, with an x-coordinate of 1, find the y-coordinate.
 - There is a point on the line L, with an x-coordinate of 0, find the y-coordinate. Describe the process to find the y-coordinate, if you are given the x-coordinate.
- 4. Write an equation, using the slope formula, which says that the slope between the point (-4, -2) and the arbitrary point (x, y) is $\frac{1}{3}$.

Then, solve this equation for y.

Also solve this equation for x.

Do these equations match the descriptions in parts 3) and 2) above?

- 5. Find the *y*-intercept of the line that passes through the point (-4, -2) and has a slope of $m = \frac{1}{3}$
- 6. Find the y-intercept of the line that passes through the point (h, k) and has a slope of m





In order for three points, A, B and C to be on a straight line, the slope from A to B must equal the slope from B to C, must equal the slope from A to C. However, we don't actually need to check all three. If the slope from A to B equals the slope from B to C, then it must also equal the slope from A to C. Show that this last statement is true by doing the following:

- 1. Write a formula for the slope from A to B in the picture above.
- 2. Write a formula for the slope from B to C in the picture above.
- 3. Set the two expressions above equal to each other. Solve this equation for y to arrive at the slope-intercept form of the equation for this line.
- 4. Write a formula for the slope from A to C in the picture above.
- 5. Set the expression in (4) equal to the expression in (2). Solve this equation for y to arrive at the slope-intercept form of the equation for this line.